

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-15 of commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,350,227 to Shikhman. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate such rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested in light of such terminal disclaimer.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-2, 7-8, 14, 16-17 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liping '383 or Van't Hooft '937 in view of Parsons (EP '004). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 6, 10 and 11, which were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), were amended into independent claim format. Claim 16 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 17 and 18. Claims 21, 24-27, 29 and 31, which were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), were amended into independent claim format.

With the obviousness type double patenting rejection addressed, and with the above amendments, all of the claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any other fees are due, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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